Abstract of the Invention

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      Digital content is released to a rendering application for forwarding by such rendering application to an ultimate destination by way of a path therebetween. The path is defined by at least one module, and the digital content is initially in an encrypted form. An authentication of at least a portion of the path is performed to determine whether each

10   defining module thereof is to be trusted to appropriately handle the digital content passing therethrough. The encrypted digital content is decrypted if in fact each such defining module is to be trusted, and the decrypted digital content is forwarded to the rendering application for further forwarding to the ultimate destination by way of the authenticated path.

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